

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated September 26, 2008. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 and 14 to 17 are in the application, with Claims 1, 5 and 10 being independent. Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 have been cancelled, Claims 14 to 17 have been newly-added, and Claims 1, 5 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 to 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0145744 (Kumada). Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 as amended generally concerns an image data processing apparatus for processing image data to be printed. The apparatus includes a print condition acquisition unit adapted to acquire information relating to a print condition which is instructed by a user, wherein the print condition includes a type of medium or a resolution, and a selection unit adapted to select a combination of a color space and bit precision, based upon the acquired information relating to the print condition. The apparatus further includes a conversion unit adapted to convert the input image data to the selected color space and bit precision, and a color correction unit adapted to execute color correction for the converted image data and generation of printer data. In addition, the apparatus includes an output unit adapted to output the printer data to a printer. The printer forms an image based on the print condition.

Thus, among its many features, Claim1 provides for (i) selecting a combination of a color space and bit precision, based upon acquired information relating to a print condition, which includes a type of medium or a resolution, (ii) converting input image data to the selected color space and bit precision, and (iii) executing color correction for the converted image data and generation of printer data.

According to one example aspect, the precision of color correction can depend on the print condition. For instance, the image data can be converted to sRGB 8-bit or xRGB 16-bit in accordance with the print condition. Further, the precision of color correction can be appropriately selected in accordance with the print condition, so that unnecessary precision of color correction is not executed. As such, print processing under a low quality does not necessarily take an inordinate amount of time. Of course, it should be noted Claim 1 is not limited to this one example aspect.

Turning to the applied reference, Kumada is not seen to disclose or suggest at least foregoing features (i) to (iii).

As understood by Applicant, Kumada discloses that an image which has been color-converted in correspondence with the output characteristics of a printing press as a target for the purpose of proof may often be printed by a copying machine or printer. Prior to the proof, a generation history of a generated profile of an output device is preferably managed. See Kumada, Abstract. Further, Kumada is seen to disclose that a processing condition for generating the profile is set based on a user instruction, and that the user can see preview image and edit the profile. See Kumada, Figures 24 and 25.

However, Kumada is not seen to disclose or suggest selecting a combination of a color space and bit precision, based upon acquired information relating to a print

condition, which includes a type of medium or a resolution. In addition, Kumada is not seen to disclose or suggest converting input image data to the selected color space and bit precision, and executing color correction for the converted image data and generation of printer data.

Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, each of independent Claims 5 and 10 provide at least for (i) selecting a combination of a color space and bit precision, based upon acquired information relating to a print condition, which includes a type of medium or a resolution, (ii) converting input image data to the selected color space and bit precision, and (iii) executing color correction for the converted image data and generation of printer data. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 10 are believed to be allowable over Kumada for at least the above-discussed reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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